

## **BLM UNCOMPAHGRE NEWS**

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## **BLM Finalizes Rules for Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area**

**Montrose**, **CO** -- The BLM Uncompandere Field Office has finalized rules for recreation and use of the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and surrounding land.

The rules implement decisions that were developed with extensive public input during the four-year process of developing the Gunnison Gorge NCA resource management plan. They provide guidance for recreational activities on 95,781 acres throughout the area.

"These rules help us prevent damage to nationally significant and sensitive resources, protect public health and safety, and reduce user conflicts," said Karen Tucker, manager of the Gunnison Gorge NCA. "They also allow us to continue to provide outstanding recreational opportunities for visitors to the area now and in the future."

The Gunnison Gorge NCA resource management plan divides the NCA and adjacent public lands into management units based on differing user and resource demands. Each unit has certain objectives for managing that area's resources. The rules address each area separately, focusing on the key resource concerns of that specific unit.

Examples of the new rules include identifying day use areas and specifying that fire pans and human waste disposal are required in camping areas.

The rules address issues of travel management, off-road vehicle use and safety, hunting, shooting, pets and pack stock use, developed and dispersed recreation site use, camping, firewood collection and camp fires, waste disposal, group size limits, permit requirements, and length of stay limits.

The final rules have been published and can be viewed on the web at <a href="http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/PDFgate.cgi?WAISdocID=28288420350+0+2+0&WAISaction=retrieve">http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/PDFgate.cgi?WAISdocID=28288420350+0+2+0&WAISaction=retrieve</a>.

For more information on the rules, please contact Karen Tucker at 970-240-5309.

## BLM ##

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